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1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
2 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

4 v.

12 CR. 445 (JMF)

5 JUAN FERNANDEZ,

6 Defendant.

7 -----x  
8 New York, N.Y.  
9 May 9, 2013  
10:00 a.m.

10 Before:

11 HON. JESSE M. FURMAN,

12 District Judge

13  
14 APPEARANCES

15 PREET BHARARA

16 United States Attorney for the  
Southern District of New York

17 SANTOSH S. ARAVIND

Assistant United States Attorney

18 FEDERAL DEFENDERS OF NEW YORK, INC.

19 Attorneys for Defendant

20 SARAH BAUMGARTEL

-and-

21 GEORGE GOLTZER

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(Case called)

MR. ARAVIND: Good morning, your Honor. Santosh Aravind, for the government.

MS. BAUMGARTEL: Good morning. Sarah Baumgartel, Federal Defenders of New York, for Mr. Fernandez.

THE COURT: Good morning, counsel. Good morning, Mr. Fernandez. And good morning to Mr. Goltzer, who is here as well. I understand, Ms. Baumgartel, that your client is interested in changing counsel. Can you fill me?

MS. BAUMGARTEL: Yes, your Honor. My client requested that I write to the Court to ask for new counsel. He's concerned about the quality of my performance, essentially. I could provide the Court with more details, but I would request if we do that that government counsel step out. Basically my client has asked that I have new counsel appointed for him.

THE COURT: I will defer to your judgment. Do you think it's something that you should fill me in on?

MS. BAUMGARTEL: It's really up to your Honor. I think that at this point, given the situation of communications between Mr. Fernandez and myself, it would make sense for new counsel to be appointed because it would assist him in making the best possible choices in his case. As I said, I can provide additional details if the Court would like.

THE COURT: Mr. Aravind.

MR. ARAVIND: I'm happy to step out, your Honor.

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1 THE COURT: All right. Why don't you do so for a  
2 minute and we'll let you know when you can return. Thank you.

3 MR. GOLTZER: May I sit down at counsel table, Judge.

4 THE COURT: You may.

5 MS. BAUMGARTEL: I think my client is concerned that I  
6 gave him bad advice with respect to whether he should enter a  
7 plea in this case. He's talked about possibly withdrawing his  
8 plea. I don't think that that would be in his interest, and  
9 I'm concerned that because he doesn't trust my advice he's not  
10 going to make the right decision and that that could have  
11 detrimental consequences for him down the road. He has in the  
12 past expressed concerns about the advice that I have given him,  
13 and this is not something that only developed after he pled  
14 guilty. This is something that had been going on for some  
15 time. I think that we both did our best to meet together and  
16 discuss his concerns, but he continues to feel like I am not  
17 giving him good advice or I'm talking to the prosecutor or I'm  
18 not doing things I should be doing in order to represent his  
19 interests. I don't agree with that, but, at this point, I  
20 think that it would be extremely beneficial to Mr. Fernandez  
21 and probably to the case as a whole if he could consult with a  
22 different lawyer so that he could have greater confidence in  
23 the advice that he's being given.

24 THE COURT: Mr. Fernandez, is it the case that you  
25 would like a new lawyer? Is it true that you would like a new

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1 lawyer?

2 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

3 THE COURT: Okay. I am going to grant the  
4 application. Obviously, you have pled guilty and the only  
5 thing remaining is sentencing, unless you do decide to move on  
6 some basis to withdraw your plea. I will tell you I don't at  
7 the moment foresee a basis for that, but obviously new counsel  
8 can consult with you about that.

9 I will tell you that you have a right to a lawyer.  
10 You don't necessarily have a right to a lawyer of your choice.  
11 Ms. Baumgartel is as fine a lawyer as they come and she is a  
12 vigorous advocate as she made clear at your plea when she stood  
13 up and made statements that, frankly, a lot of lawyers wouldn't  
14 have done on your behalf. And in addition to that, having a  
15 lawyer is not like a motel; you don't just check in and check  
16 out as you see fit. You have appointed counsel, and you're  
17 entitled to effective counsel. Ms. Baumgartel is certainly  
18 that, Mr. Goltzer is certainly that.

19 All of that said, given the circumstances, I'm willing  
20 to grant this application, but I will tell you you're unlikely  
21 to get another shot. Mr. Goltzer is also as fine an attorney  
22 as they come. I had several cases with him when I was a  
23 prosecutor so I know that firsthand. You'll have the virtue of  
24 advice from another lawyer and you're going to end up having to  
25 stick with that. Do you understand that?

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1 THE DEFENDANT: I understand. I would like to speak.

2 THE COURT: You may want to talk to Mr. Goltzer before  
3 you say anything because I don't know what you're going to say.

4 MR. GOLTZER: Excuse us for a moment, Judge.

5 THE COURT: Sure.

6 MR. GOLTZER: I have no problem with him telling you  
7 what he just told me, Judge. It might make him feel better.

8 THE DEFENDANT: I'm not, I'm not taking her out of my  
9 case because I think she's a bad lawyer. I believe she's a  
10 good lawyer, but my thing is that I don't think she was  
11 properly prepared for my case. I don't think she went over my  
12 case the way that I need it to be checked because there was not  
13 enough time to go over this case. So I'm not saying, I'm not  
14 changing because she's bad. It's just we don't see eye to eye  
15 and there's no communication, so if I can't communicate with  
16 somebody that I'm depending on that has my life in their hands,  
17 then I can't go with that person. So I need to, I need another  
18 lawyer. This, this, this thing, this dispute been going on  
19 before I took my plea. I don't have no knowledge to the law.  
20 I never studied law. So me, for me to come out like one  
21 person, I need two advisors. I'm not a smart person on the  
22 law. So I can't just believe everything she's saying to me.

23 I'm facing a lot of time, and I need two advisors.  
24 I'm not saying she's a bad lawyer because she's a good lawyer  
25 and good person, but I just think she wasn't prepared for this

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1 case and I think I just need a second opinion, that there was  
2 stuff that she said that was going to be dismissed was never  
3 dismissed and I ended up pleading to it. I'm just need  
4 somebody to overlook my case again and see if something went  
5 wrong during the case, during the process. That's my problem.

6 THE COURT: Okay. I understand. Why don't we get  
7 Mr. Aravind back. I don't see any reason for him to remain out  
8 there, unless counsel think otherwise.

9 (Pause)

10 THE COURT: I am going to grant Mr. Fernandez's  
11 application on the grounds that there is a breakdown of  
12 communication between him and Ms. Baumgartel. I do so having  
13 warned Mr. Fernandez that he is not entitled to counsel of his  
14 choice and while I'm willing to grant this application, the  
15 likelihood of granting any future such application is quite  
16 slim. Mr. Goltzer, as I said before, is an extremely vigilant  
17 and fine attorney, as is Ms. Baumgartel.

18 For the moment, Ms. Baumgartel, you are relieved. I  
19 would ask that you provide Mr. Goltzer with your file from this  
20 case and whatever assistance he requires to get up to speed on  
21 where things stand and the nature of the evidence.

22 MS. BAUMGARTEL: I will.

23 THE COURT: And do so promptly.

24 MS. BAUMGARTEL: Yes, your Honor.

25 THE COURT: With that, you are excused, with the

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1 Court's thanks.

2 Mr. Goltzer, I don't know what, if anything, you know  
3 about this case. First of all, as a formal matter, you are now  
4 appointed in Ms. Baumgartel's stead.

5 MS. BAUMGARTEL: Thank you.

6 THE COURT: Mr. Fernandez pled guilty a few months  
7 ago. Sentencing, in fact I don't know what date it was  
8 scheduled for, but that is the next step in the process.

9 MR. GOLTZER: I'm told it's scheduled for sometime in  
10 June. I'm also told he's not been interviewed by the probation  
11 department for the sentence. It might be useful to adjourn it  
12 for a little longer so I can see him next week after going  
13 online and checking the docket sheet and any documents and  
14 getting any input from his prior lawyer.

15 THE COURT: Just to fill you in, I think you made find  
16 that there's a little bit more. As cases go, there may be a  
17 bit more for you to get up on here than other cases. There  
18 were 20 defendants in the indictment. There were four months  
19 of wiretaps and in excess of 11,000 calls intercepted. They  
20 weren't the defendant's phone, but he was certainly, I  
21 understand and assume, on many of those calls. One of the  
22 codefendants went to trial, and so in that regard there's a  
23 trial record also. I don't know what precisely you will want  
24 to look at, but it's not as typical as some narcotics cases can  
25 be.

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1           In light of that, I'm certainly willing to give you  
2 whatever time you think is necessary to get up to speed and  
3 talk to Mr. Fernandez and arrange for him to be interviewed by  
4 probation, but I obviously would like to move this forward.

5           MR. GOLTZER: I'm in a couple of other cases with a  
6 voluminous amount of discovery. So the most time you could  
7 give me, I would appreciate. Certainly if I could have 60 days  
8 I'll do my best to get up to speed. If I need more time, I'll  
9 make an application. I assume you would like us to go forward  
10 with the interview in any event.

11           THE COURT: Yes.

12           MR. GOLTZER: I will instruct Mr. Fernandez not to  
13 speak about the offense at that interview. He would rely, of  
14 course, on his plea for the acceptance, if in fact he doesn't  
15 make an application to withdraw it.

16           THE COURT: No. 1, I already ordered that that  
17 interview not take place unless counsel is present, so that  
18 order is in place and I will continue it. I will direct you to  
19 arrange within the next two weeks for him to be interviewed by  
20 the probation department, given what you just said, and so the  
21 probation department can move forward with the presentence  
22 report. Sentencing, I gather, is now scheduled for July 2, so  
23 I'm going to adjourn it. I'm going to give you three months on  
24 the theory that you may need a little bit more time than you  
25 would anticipate. I would adjourn it to Wednesday, October 2,



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1 at 3 p.m. And per my rules and prior direction, any defense  
2 submission in connection with sentencing is due two weeks prior  
3 to that date. The government's submission is due one week  
4 prior to that date.

5 Is there anything else that we need to deal with?

6 Mr. Aravind.

7 MR. ARAVIND: No, your Honor. Thank you.

8 THE COURT: Mr. Goltzer.

9 MR. GOLTZER: No. Thank you, Judge.

10 THE COURT: Thank you very much. The matter is  
11 adjourned.

12 (Adjourned)